

Firestone

MATCH DAY
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GILBERT MATCH BALL
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RATHDOWN MOTORS

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE



St. Mary's RFC

- 15. KEVIN NOWLAN
- 14. JOHN MCWEENEY
- 13. KELVIN MCNAMEE
- 12. GARETH GANNON
- 11. DAVID LYONS
- 10. CRAIG FITZPATRICK
- 9. CONOR MCGUINNESS
- 1. BRIAN KEANE (Capt.)
- 2. BARRY BROWNE
- 3. EMMET BYRNE
- 4. STEVE JAMESON
- 5. KEVIN POTTS
- 6. MARK REILLY
- 7. MARK CUDDIHY
- 8. VICTOR COSTELLO

SUBSTITUTES

- 16. EONN MCCORMACK, 17. PETER GILBOURNE,
- 18. DAVID BRESLIN, 19. PETER COYLE,
- 20. DAN BOURKE

ST. MARY'S RFC
IS SPONSORED BY

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FIRESTONE "MAN OF THE MATCH"
AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED
AFTER THE MATCH.

RETIREE:
J. Gole
(ARLB)

SATURDAY
22nd March
1997
at 2.30 p.m.

Templeville
Road



Touch Judges:
T. Duggan
(ARLB),
C. Byrne
(ARLB)

Old Belvedere RFC

- 15. PETER MCKENNA
- 14. MILES O'REILLY
- 13. CRAIG BEWLEY
- 12. STEVE TORMEY (Capt.)
- 11. WILLIE NORSE
- 10. BILLY TREACY
- 9. BARRY MURPHY
- 1. RAY WARD
- 2. LARS WIEGLAND
- 3. TOMMY KEARNS
- 4. MARK FEELY
- 5. NEIL FRANCIS
- 6. MIKE CARSWELL
- 7. FERGAL O'BEIRNE
- 8. CORMAC JOHNSTON

SUBSTITUTES:

St Mary's remain in valiant pursuit

John O'Sullivan

St Mary's College..... 21
Old Belvedere..... 10

UNDER the tutelage of coach Ciaran Fitzgerald and in the familiar environs of St Mary's College, Victor Costello is beginning to shake off the nightmares of life at Sunbury.

Costello was impressive yesterday at Templeville Road, aggressively powerful in defence and explosive from the base of the scrum; he did not always manage huge yardage but invariably took two or three players to bring him to the ground.

Mary's should have profited

from the carnage he wreaked but shoddy handling and a lack of direction, particularly in the first half, initially allowed Old Belvedere a more comfortable time than they might have anticipated.

Ireland tour New Zealand in two months and Costello should be on the plane. He knows that his exclusion from the Five Nations Championship was largely self-inflicted and conceded that he is determined to illustrate through his performances that he still boasts an international pedigree.

Yesterday, Mary's lacked the fluency of previous performances; the absence of Denis Hickey, Ray McIlreavy and the early departure of Gareth Gan-

non with a leg injury made for a patchwork threequarter line.

Former school's international Kelvin McNamee enjoyed an auspicious debut in the centre, combining well with first Gannon and then the under-rated David Lyons.

But initially it was Belvedere, backed by a strong wind, that dominated the exchanges. Points though proved a problem and with 37 minutes of the first half gone, they had amassed just three.

Fergal O'Beirne's try 60 seconds later, following a fine run by Myles O'Reilly, was converted by out-half Billy Treacy. He had earlier kicked a penalty but also missed three further opportunities, two from long

range.

A 10-point advantage would have been a precarious lead to defend after the interval but Belvedere suffered a grievous blow three minutes into injury time. Treacy's 22-metre penalty struck an upright, Mary's flanker Mark Cuddihy gathered and set up a ruck in the shadow of his own posts.

From this innocuous position, Mary's conjured a superb try. Full-back Keith Nowlan broke brilliantly on the short side before sending right wing John McWeeney away. He covered the remaining 70 metres just ahead of the Belvedere posse.

Craig Fitzpatrick missed the conversion but the home side

had inflicted a mortal blow. Galvanised by Steve Jameson's dominance at the front of the line-out and some tidy driving by the pack, Mary's began to dominate up front.

Fitzpatrick's boot kept Belvedere largely pinned in their own 22 and three well-struck penalties from the out-half on 52, 59 and 68 minutes took the home side into a 14-10 lead.

Belvedere tried to use the possession won by Neil Francis and the hard-working Cormac Johnston out wide but much of their threequarter line play was pedestrian and frequently pre-empted a handling error.

Mary's sealed their victory in injury time when scrum-half Conor McGuinness broke on

the blind side close to the line before sending Nowlan scampering over. Fitzpatrick's conversion signalled the end of a largely scrappy and undistinguished affair.

Belvedere are tumbling towards the relegation mire. St Mary's continuing a fruitless pursuit of Shannon.

St Mary's: K Nowlan, J McWeeney, K McNamee, G Gannon, D Lyons, C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness, B Keane (capt), B Browne, E Byrne, S Jameson, K Polls, V McReilly, V Costello, M Cuddihy. **Replacement:** E McDermuck (for Gannon 26 mins).

Old Belvedere: P McKenna, M O'Reilly, C Blevins, S Torney (capt), W Norris, B Treacy, B Murphy, M Carroll, L Whelan, T Kearns, M Feeney, N Francis, M Cariswell, F O'Sullivan, C Johnston. **Replacement:** J Quinn (for Cariswell 42 mins).

Referee: J Cole (Munster)

Three tries suffice for Mary's

ST MARY'S COLLEGE 21
OLD BELVEDERE 10

Gerard Doherty
Templeville Road

A POOR match played in inclement weather with howling winds yesterday was won by a St Mary's side still in the title hunt against an Old Belvedere who needed the points to make safe their position in Division One of the All Ireland League.

The wind was so strong that kicking into it was advised against and St Mary's, who chose the more difficult option in the first half, played a containing game, defending well waiting to make their move.

Old Belvedere had gone into an early lead with a Bill Treacy penalty after just three minutes but it began to look

with half-time approaching that they had wasted the wind advantage when Peter McKenna set Miles O'Reilly off on a diagonal run, he passed to Bewley who moved it on to Norse who was stopped shy of the line. The visitors maintained their forward momentum however and it was Fergal O'Brien who touched down for the score. Billy Treacy converted.

Injuries and replacements in the first half had meant that five minutes of extra-time was played and just as the crowd were anticipating the whistle, Kevin Nowlan burst out from his 22 and ran twenty yards before connecting with John McWeeney who still had some 50 yards to go but with just the Belvedere forwards providing cover, his task was made easier and he was never caught. Fitzpatrick missed the conversion but now the gap between the teams was

negligible and St Mary's would have the wind at their backs after the interval.

Mick Carswell, easily the best of the visiting forwards had to retire with a wrist injury just after the restart and from then it was only a matter of time before St Mary's would pile on the points.

Conor McGuinness was very unlucky not to score when he chipped the Belvedere defence and ran to touch it down but was denied by a wicked bounce.

Several infractions by the visitors presented St Mary's out-half with countless kickable penalties and he converted three on the 52nd, 59th and 68th minutes respectively.

Old Belvedere, at this stage were certainly not out of the picture but they never really looked like scoring and all

ears were glued to radio sets to hear of Shannon's fortunes against Terenure.

Full-back Kevin Nowlan, who had a fine game, had the last word taking a McGuinness pass from a ruck and then jinking past a tired Belvedere side for the try. Fitzpatrick added the extra points.

Victor Costello, a player much maligned for his defense frailties was man of the match yesterday with a quiet but assured game at the back of the scrum. His contribution in defence was immense and the selectors will be well advised to take note again of his prodigious talent.

For St Mary's, it is probably a case of too little, too late. Easily the most exciting team in the early stages of the league, they lost their way after the Shannon win and a brace of poor results put paid

to their championship aspirations.

Three points adrift with just three games left, St Mary's still have a mathematical chance of lifting the championship. But Shannon seem to have the easier run-in and it would require nothing short of a miracle now for the trophy to come to Templeville.

Blackrock College are next week's opponents. Not an ideal prospect for a team that needs fate to intervene fast.

SCORING SEQUENCE

3 mins: Bill Treacy pen 0-3; **37 mins:** Fergal O'Brien try, Treacy con 0-10; **40 mins:** John McWeeney try 5-10; **52 mins:** Craig Fitzpatrick pen 8-10; **59 mins:** Fitzpatrick pen 11-10; **68 mins:** Fitzpatrick pen 14-10; **80 mins:** K Nowlan try, Fitzpatrick con 21-10.

ST MARY'S: K Nowlan, J McWeeney, K McNamara, G Gannon, D Lyons, C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness, B Keane, B Browne, E Byrne, S Jameson, K Potts, M Reilly, M Cuddihy, V Costello.
OLD BELVEDERE: P McKenna, M O'Reilly, C Bewley, S Torney, W Norse, B Treacy, B Murphy, M Carroll, L Wiegand, T Kearns, M Feely, N Francis, M Carswell, C Johnston, F O'Brien.